Conference on Disarmament

13 August 2015

Original: English

UNITED NATIONS
DEPOSITORY

OCT 27 2015

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Indonesia
on behalf of member States of G-21

Working paper

Method of Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Revitalization

1. The Group of 21 would like to stress that the Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum mandated by the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSODI) and emphasize the importance of preserving it by strengthening the nature, role and mandate of this body. We must underscore the need to redouble our efforts in order to reinforce and revitalize the Conference on Disarmament and preserve its credibility through the resumption of substantive work including, inter alia, the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. The G-21 reaffirms its working papers submitted to the Conference in 2014, on the Follow-up to the 2013 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, on Nuclear Disarmament, on Negative Security Assurances and on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

2. Nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority of the international community. The G-21 reiterates its deep concern at the danger posed to the survival of humankind by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. The Group, stressing its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, underscores the urgent need to commence negotiations on this issue in the Conference, without further delay. As the highest priority, the Conference on Disarmament should start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the possession, development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of nuclear weapons, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time. In this context, the Group recalls its working paper contained in CD/1999 that calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament, in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

3. The Group welcomes the formal proclamation, for the first time in history, of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace, on the occasion of the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Havana, Cuba, on 28-29 January 2014, which includes the commitment of all States of that region to further

Please recycle

nuclear disarmament as a priority goal and to contribute to general and complete disarmament. Hopefully, this proclamation will be followed by other political proclamations as "Zone of Peace" in other regions of the world.

4. The Group reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and expresses its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas. The Group welcomes the convening of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament on 26 September 2013 and reaffirms its related resolution A/RES/68/32 to follow up to this meeting. As the Secretary General of the UN rightly mentioned in the Conference on Disarmament last year "The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament demonstrated that this issue remains a major international priority and deserves attention at the highest levels". In this vein, the Group fully supports the goals of this resolution in particular its call for urgent decision by the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiation on nuclear disarmament, particularly a comprehensive Convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. The Group also welcomes the decision to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard.

5. The Group reaffirms the importance of the multilateral disarmament machinery. It notes the report of the Open-Ended Working Group mandated by the United Nations General Assembly "to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons" and hopes that it would contribute towards negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference, particularly a comprehensive Convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. To this end, the Group welcomes UNGA Resolution A/RES/68/46, which recognizes that the Open-ended Working Group engaged in an open, constructive, transparent and interactive manner to address various issues related to nuclear disarmament.

6. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of such weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons as a matter of high priority. The Group expresses concern that despite the commitment of the nuclear weapon States and long standing requests by non-nuclear-weapon States to receive such legally binding assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard. It is a matter of more concern that non-nuclear-weapon States implicitly or explicitly have been subject to nuclear threats by some nuclear weapon States contrary to their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. The Group also calls for the commencement of negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/69.

7. The Group concurs with the Secretary-General of the United Nations that there is a growing understanding of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this regard welcomes the hosting of the Conferences on this subject, convened in Oslo on 4-5 March 2013, in Mexico on 13-14 February and in Vienna on 8-9 December 2014.

8. In this context, the Group expresses its deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction cause by any nuclear weapon detonation

and its long term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. In this regard, the Group believes that the full realization of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons must underpin all approaches, efforts and international commitments towards nuclear disarmament, through an inclusive process involving all States.

9. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) welcome the spirit of the findings of the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. These must be adequately reflected in the outcome of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, together with the spirit of the pledges and national statements made by many states during and since the Vienna Conference aimed at securing progress on nuclear disarmament through the negotiation of legally binding effective measures, particularly a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time. We call on all nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT to implement their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States Parties are committed to under Article VI. Given the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and unacceptable risks and threats associated with a nuclear weapon' detonation, we will endeavour to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders in efforts to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons.

10. The G-21 expresses its disappointment that the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to undertake substantive work on its agenda. The Group takes note of various efforts to reach consensus on the Conference on Disarmament's programme of work including the programme of work adopted on 29 May 2009 that was not implemented and all subsequent efforts and proposals for a programme of work, including those tabled on 14 March 2012, 11 February 2013, 21 June 2013, 13 August 2013 and 29 January 2015, that were not adopted, and the decision adopted in 2013 on the establishment of the Informal Working Group, with a mandate to produce a programme of work and its re-establishment on the 3rd March, 2014.

11. The Group reiterates the urgency that the Conference on Disarmament should adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda, while taking into account the security interests of all States and dealing with, inter alia, the core issues, including nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the rules of procedure, including the rule of consensus.

12. The Group furthermore believes that promoting the work of the United Nations disarmament machinery hinges on the need to exercising political will, taking into account the collective security interests of all States.

13. While expressing its deep concern over the persistent lack of consensus on the implementation of the multilateral disarmament agenda in the United Nations disarmament machinery, particularly in fulfilling the commitments on nuclear disarmament as the highest priority, the Group reaffirms its support for an early convening of the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV) and expresses its deep concern over the fact that SSOD IV is yet to be convened.

14. The Group of 21 reiterates the importance of the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and deeply regrets the delay of concrete actions to that end.

15. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the NPT expresses their continued concern that one of the important decisions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, namely convening a Conference by the United Nations and co-sponsors of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference resolution on establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in 2012, was not realized. The G-21 States Parties to the NPT are disappointed that the following efforts to convene such a

3 0112 115671924

conference in 2013 and 2014 were also not successful. They stress that the agreed mandate of the conference as contained in 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference resolution on the Middle East and the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan should be maintained and constitute the basis for convening the Conference as well as its preparatory process.

16. The Group welcomes the upcoming Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zones and Mongolia 2015, to be convened in New York in April 2015.

17. The Group recognizes the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the possibility of expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament.

18. The Group also recognizes the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament, according to decisions taken by the Conference, and continues to support the strengthening of the Conference on Disarmament ´s interaction with civil society. In this regard, the Group welcomes the convening of the Conference on Disarmament-Civil Society Forum on 19 March 2015 to be hosted by the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament.